

presently to the question of the child's ambivalence towards adults; it simplifies discussion to take these situations separately in the first instance. And I shall discuss the deeper sources of ambivalence of feeling when discussing *sexuality*.)

At this point, we can throw the problem into relief by bringing together a number of facts already noted. We have seen, for instance, the initial hostility of very young children towards each other, and the marked aggression which even one- and two-year-olds may show towards rivals. We have noted the many forms and occasions of individual hostility occurring between individual children even when they have played familiarly together. We have seen, too, how warm and vivid their feelings of mutual love and admiration can be. The striking thing about the emotional life of young children is indeed the readiness with which attitudes change. The child who is at this moment saying, "Oh, I do, do love you!" may at the next moment be saying, "You beast! I hate you!" Even towards his best friends a child may burst out in furious anger on any stimulus—or sometimes, in the case of some children at least, without any "good" or immediate reason in the other's behaviour. And then soon again he may be admiring and loving his friend and obeying his behest. From laughter to tears, from admiration to contempt, from love to hatred, is but a moment's step in these early years. And each emotion in turn is experienced fully and intensely. There is no balanced feeling, no stable attitude.

When we do see the beginning of a more stable relation, a more steady attitude of friendliness in one child for another, we commonly find at work the mechanism we are now considering—that of *hating someone else instead*. In other

words, the child is able to love one of his
fellows more whole-
heartedly, more faithfully, more steadily,
because he has
turned his hostility on to another.

Our understanding of this mechanism
was not arrived at
by direct observation, although we can
in direct observation
of very little children see it plainly at
work. It was gained
through psycho-analytic studies.

Every adult and every child, whether
neurotic or normal,
whose inner life has been penetrated by
the psycho-analytic
technique has been shown to have a
much greater ambival-
ence of feeling than he is consciously
aware of. Even towards